The upgradation to National Highway specification of the Udharband-Jatinga sector is being funded by the North-East Council from 1-10-1989. Consequently, no separate maintenance funds are allotted by the NEC for this sector.

[*Translation*]

Civic Amenities at Heera Mills of NTC in Ujjain

653. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for providing civic amenities in the workers complex of Heera Mills under National Textiles Corporation situated at Ujjain (M.P.) and the provision made for the repair of dilapidated houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): As per the agreement of National Textiles Corporation with the Ujjain Municipal Corporation, the cleanliness of the quarters/factory at Hira Mills, Ujjain has been entrusted to the Municipal Corporation, on monthly payment basis. Other civic amenities provided are as under:—

(i) electricity at the mills quarters provided by the mills on chargeable basis.

(ii) street lights at the Mill's expenses.

(iii) water supply pipeline laid by the mills for supply of water.

(iv) repairs and white-washing of mill quarters carried out by the mills.

(v) separate recreation clubs in the chawl in the mills campus provided by the mills.

(vi) community latrines provided in the mills campus whose maintenance/services charges paid by the mills to the Municipal Corporation.

(vii) contribution was made to Ujjain Municipal Corporation of around Rs. 2 lakhs for other consequential expenses on roads and drainage work in Hira Mills chawl in 1990.

Necessary repairs of houses are undertaken by the Mill Management as and when required.

[*English*]

Arrears of Central Excise Duty

654. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total arrears of Central Excise Duty as on March 31, 1989, March 31, 1990 and March 31, 1991;

(b) the names of major defaulters with arrears of more than Rs. 1 crore as on these dates with amount due;

(c) the total arrears of the major defaulters;

(d) whether any interest is payable on the arrears; and

(e) the steps taken to collect the arrears, including denial of expansion licences and quotas for raw materials in short supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Rs. 847 crores, Rs. 973 crores and Rs. 1226 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir. The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 does not provide for charging interest. The arrears have to be cleared immediately unless otherwise stayed by the competent authority. However, by executive instructions, in deserving cases on the request of the party, instalments facility is allowed provided the said party is prepared to pay interest at the rate

of 17.5% per annum, compounded at the end of each month.

(e) As the realisation of arrears of revenue is an on going process, such measures, administrative, legal and others, as are considered necessary from time to time continue to be taken. In case of deliberate and persistent tax default of huge amounts less preferential treatment in the matters concerning approval of applications for capital issues, bonus shares, loans from banks/public financial institutions, expansion licencing etc., is given.

[*Translation*]

Provision of raw material for weavers in Bihar

655. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of State for TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide raw material, finance and proper market facilities to improve the lot of weavers in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to make arrangements for the export of their goods;

(c) if so, when and how; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India has formulated a number of schemes in consultation with the State Governments for provision of raw material, finance and for providing marketing assistance to handloom weavers throughout the country. These schemes are implemented by State Governments and are not area/district specified. Following facilities are provided with a view to improving the lot of weavers, including, those in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur Districts of Bihar:

Provision of Raw Material.—Hank Yarn obligation scheme ensures adequate provision of hank yarn for the handloom weavers. For augmenting yarn production, assistance is given for setting up of new spindles, expansion of the existing capacities by way of share capital participation in weavers cooperative spinning mills. National Handloom Development Corporation was set up with a view to augment yarn supply and supply of dyes and chemicals to the handloom weavers.

Provision of Finance.—A scheme is in operation for providing working capital finance to primary/apex cooperative societies through cooperative banks. Individual weavers in the fold of State level handloom corporations are assisted by the Corporations which get working capital finance from nationalised banks and the other banks.

Marketing Assistance.—A comprehensive Market Development Assistance scheme is being implemented by the Central Government as a replacement of the earlier rebate scheme. Under this scheme, state level apex cooperative societies and corporations are eligible for assistance at the rate of 8% of their turnover or the amount equal to rebate drawn by them in the year 1988-89. This scheme gives greater flexibility to State organisations to deploy the funds for improving the marketing of handloom products.

(b) to (d) *Export of Handloom Products.*—Government has set up Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd., which tries to promote export of handloom products from all over the country. However, export is largely in private hands and is done through private negotiations. There also exists a Handloom Export Promotion Council which strives to promote handloom exports from India.